

6 March: (news on Chan) Old Binh Hoa Rd; Mueller, Matlage.
Petersen, Mottram; Ellison, lunch; 133; Team; R. Shatt's the truth - Cole
Hallie: no Damaged. Komer. Pix; letters.

1966
5 March: (4 March: Van on Chan, Quang)

0800 breakfast (ignored); cable; (Baker, Vol, Menge).

0910: Baker

1030: in to Lodge. back. Kim Miller, Baker

1230: Chan. 1500: Hallie. 1600: Chan, Van. 1800: Team.

Class: 1. Quang: autonomy if Thi in, or class continues.
Logical; advisable. (Simple, direct: wife caught)

2. Troops may defect. De Ray. Unhappy -
(lack of housing, PX; how then pay: cost of living).

"US doesn't care about troops," say VNese.

3. Thiin ~~to~~ should take bid: ~~900~~ 900,000
under arms - my fight. 2) Let us fight VC; don't let
VC in gov

b) you - religious - appoint ^{interim} gov

c) In several months - elections to assembly.

by Thiin must expect to go: but might be appointed.

4. Assembly could have forestalled this; now, only VNese
in gov are generals, regarded as puppets of US.
I think so, too.

(Actually, both generals and US are would-be confident, lack
strength of convictions.)

5. GVN tells present: VC is bad, you must destroy them."

Sees VC is bad, but so is GVN: ^{VC} not much worse.

Puzzled: doesn't want to destroy.

6. May ask (e.g. in Admin Conf): If GVN sovereign, why does US Intelligence recruit soldiers, hire, pay, arm?

(Provisional: they join to enable VN leave).

Th. asked C to write paper explaining. How?

(Th. asked C at beginning what he thought CIA was in view. C told, in time, they just paid, he ran. But people suspicious, can't think why US spending money. Think political party for Ky.

C. guesses, earlier: think force, in advising? But why only Dy Dan, not others?

Why does US have no policy?

PAT indicates good, but ~~but~~ poor leaders.

Mao still high

(4 other US VIPs)

People are surprised: when Bundy talked to

Mao alone, they think Mao is getting his orders from US, and Mao encourages this.

7. Corruption:

- a) "Legal": give (sell: ⁵⁰⁰⁻¹⁰⁰⁰ ~~10,000~~ p's per head) license to ship out of province buffels. 500,000 a month.
- b) Dist chiefs allow PF's to collect rents: for ent. (+ to know chief).
- c) Build outposts to protect plantation, for pay.

(~~However~~)

But pay not enough: 25,000 a month for Chan, needs 32-35,000. Wife has to.... has investments. Asks more.

Not all dists can make much: no businesses, no export.

more clever than GVN, no doubt

8. Tri Quang: If wants all power now...

Wants coalition with VC — thinks Buddhists/peasants will have more power (e.g. over Catholics) than through any other route.

Can't go losing to VC; thinks war is lost; if Buddhists delay, no deal. If Budd help VC, may keep role — + outsmart Comms.

Elections / const ~~or~~ ~~now~~ cover for negotiation.

[Hinky.] [Hiel: Budd explicitly widespread anti-American]

9. Consider: Offer VC ceasefire: they can't traverse [strategic: or enter, propagandize] gov areas — where GVN has troops / officials. (Deploy quickly); GVN doesn't operate militarily in "thin" areas. (Enter? propaganda?)

Currently GVN controls about 2 million, really; with this, could gain good control over 8 million; entirely, more. "Forbidden" VC political action. But if they did compute, not true VC must win — people who say that don't know VC. [But if enough believe it — and act on it Chan doesn't expect this; has never

happened, even when VC were winning more: 1964-65:
people didn't join VC.

Eventually, people would come into GVN areas.

VC would probably not accept (would freeze them
into minority, lose current control for them in areas of
now-ineffective GVN presence: wouldn't it kill them
on tapes?): but this would be very costly for them
psychologically.

[Charts: ^{then:} Show as "pacified" only places protected only
by police and people's self-defence forces. [But:
towns, with RF/PK?]

b) Show areas where VC can't operate larger than
company size (e.g. due to bombing: now, much of country,
vs. 1964-65).: where VC can't destroy companies or larger
(with impunity). Show: incident maps; map of villages
with resident committees....